

Remarks

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments above and comments which follow.

Turning first to the specification, an Abstract is attached hereto, and as required by the examiner, the specification has been reviewed and English spellings have been replaced by American spellings. Also, the changes noted by the examiner in numbered section 3 on page 3 of the office action have been effected for consistency.

Regarding the drawing matters raised in numbered sections 4 and 5, the attached drawing correction adds the numeral 42 to Figure 5. However, item 29 is shown in Figure 4, and therefore no change is needed. Also, the amendment to the specification to change the improper identification of 19 to 18 took care of the last correction.

Regarding the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 in numbered sections 7 through 9, claims 61 and 62 have been cancelled, obviating any problems regarding them. Claim 63 has been replaced by new claim 67, which is in accordance with the suggestions of the examiner. The remaining claims have been corrected to correspond to claim 67, and it is believed that the claims, as amended, now meet all of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

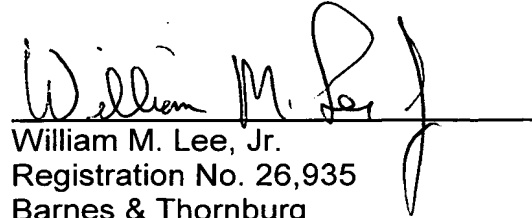
Regarding the rejections of claims 61 and 62 set forth in numbered sections 2 through 6 on pages 6 through 8 of the office action, with the cancellation of claims 61 and 62, those rejections are now moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and the examiner's further and favorable reconsideration in that regard is urged.

As this response is being submitted during the fifth month following the examiner's office action, an appropriate petition for extension of time is also submitted herewith.

March 30, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Lee, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, looped "L" and a long, sweeping underline.

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ABSTRACT

An apparatus for evaporating liquid samples contained in sample holders mounted within a chamber and rotated by the rotor during an evaporation process in which the pressure in the chamber is reduced below atmospheric and the sample holders are rotated at high speed so as to exert centrifugal force on the contents of the holders. Heat is supplied to elevate the temperature of the liquid component of the samples to assist in the evaporation process. The temperature of the sample material is continuously or regularly monitored during the evaporation process and temperature signals are transmitted to a remote computing means which is programmed to generate a control signal for controlling the supply of heat to the samples and controlling the evaporation process. The temperature may be sensed by a probe in a sample holder containing an evaporating liquid sample, or in an adjoining sample holder containing a buffer liquid. The rotational speed is also sensed and a speed signal conveyed to the computing means.